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NEW YORK TIMES
3 APRIL 1983

U.S. Report Said to Accuse Soviet on Arms Treaty

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 2 — An inter-agency task force is close to sending President Reagan a report that finds the Soviet Union guilty of violating the 1979 strategic arms limitation treaty with recent missile tests, White House officials said Friday.

Should the President and his National Security Council endorse the findings, officials said the interagency group had prepared several American responses, ranging from private diplomatic protests to the Soviet Union, having the President present the charges and evidence publicly, or even declaring that the Reagan Administration no longer feels bound to observe the treaty.

Some officials said President Reagan may make a speech or issue a statement on purported Soviet treaty violations, making a missile test on Feb. 8 the centerpiece. But it would deal as well with American suspicions that Moscow has also violated treaties imposing limits on underground nuclear testing and possibly even the antiballistic missile treaty of 1972.

The President's ultimate action, the officials said, would depend on the final outcome of two months of technical analysis of intelligence data on the Feb. 8 Soviet missile test and policy deliberations at the National Security Council.

Agree Violation Occurred

Officials said there was already a virtual consensus among Defense Department, Central Intelligence Agency, State Department and White House officials that a violation occurred. Other officials said a final report and policy recommendations were due to go to the National Security Council soon.

In the past the United States has questioned Moscow through diplomatic channels about some of its missile tests

and deployments but never formally accused the Soviet Union of violating a strategic arms treaty. However, the Reagan Administration has accused the Soviet Union at the United Nations of violating international bans against the use of chemical warfare in Afghanistan, Laos and Cambodia.

An official declaration that the United States no longer felt bound by the strategic arms treaty signed by President Carter and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, but never approved by the United States Senate, would have an impact on current arms talks in Geneva and the arms race in general, officials said.

Both on the Feb. 8 missile test and other instances where Washington has suspected the Soviet Union of possible violations of several arms agreements, the United States has gone through diplomatic channels to ask questions of Moscow about its compliance. Officials said the Soviet Union had always answered that it was complying with all the arms treaties.

The 1979 treaty, which the Reagan Administration has said it will uphold as long as Moscow does, permits each side to test and deploy one new intercontinental ballistic missile. Last November, American officials say, Moscow tested a new missile and told the United States this was the one permitted by the treaty. But American officials contend that on Feb. 8 another new kind of missile was tested.

Initially, some officials suggested this might be a permissible modifica-

tion of an earlier missile rather than a second new missile. The President ordered a "very intensive technical assessment" of intelligence information on the test.

Officials said this effort had been hindered by the heavy coding of Soviet telemetry or electronic data from the missile tests, data monitored by American intelligence and checked to verify Soviet compliance with the arms treaty.

The President told reporters in a group interview on March 29 that his Administration had proposed negotiating stronger verification procedures for the Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and the Peaceful Nuclear Exchange Treaty of 1976, but Moscow had rejected this approach.